

besides a collection made by Mr. André at several localities on the latter river. Unfortunately the dangers and difficulties met with by all the explorers interfered with the continuance of their work, which, however, it is hoped, may be resumed at a later period. The unworked Sierra Parima could not be reached.

From the places actually visited, however, a large series of birds, embracing examples of no less than 468 species, was obtained, so that it cannot be said that the results were in any sense meagre. At the highest stations on the Orinoco many forms hitherto known only from Upper Amazonia were met with, whilst on the Caura the Avifauna was found to bear more resemblance to that of British Guiana, with a certain number of endemic species.

The following are the names of the species and subspecies described as new:—*Microcerculus caurensis*, *Thryothorus griseipectus caurensis*, *Troglodytes musculus clarus*, *Hylophilus thoracicus griseiventris*, *Cyanerpes cærulea cherriei*, *Calliste mexicana media*, *Pyrocephalus rubineus saturatus*, *Tæniotriccus andrei*, *Habrura pectoralis brevipennis*, *Serpophaga orenocensis*, *Thripophaga cherriei*, *Automolus sclateri paraensis*, *Dendronis rostrispallens sororia*, *Xiphocolaptes orenocensis*, *Dendrocincla phæochroa*, *Thamnophilus doliatus fraterculus*, *Myrmotherula cherriei*, *M. cinereiventris pallida*, *Myrmeciza swainsoni griseipectus*, *Saucerottea erythronotos caurensis*, *Chlorostilbon caribaeus nanus*, *Thalurania furcata fissilis*, *Lophornis verreauxi klagesi*, *Chætura andrei*, *Veniliornis orenocensis*, *Picumnus stellæ*, *Capito auratus intermedius*, and *Ramphastos hæmatorhynchus*. Two new generic names are proposed, namely, *Tæniotriccus* (p. 38) for *T. andrei* from the Caura River (a new form of *Platyrhynchinæ*), and *Phæomyias* (p. 41) for *P. incompta* (Cab. et Heine), in place of *Myiopatris*, which is shown to be a synonym of *Ornithion*.

The coloured plate contains excellent figures of *Xenopsaris albinucha*, *Thripophaga cherriei*, and *Saltator orenocensis*. The occurrence so far north of *Xenopsaris* (hitherto known only from Argentina) is quite a surprise to us.

79. '*Bird-Lore.*'

[*Bird-Lore.* Edited by Frank M. Chapman. The Macmillan Co., Harrisburg, New York, and London.]

We have before us the third volume of this American bi-monthly ornithological magazine for 1901, and the numbers up to May of the present year. Primarily '*Bird-Lore,*' which appears to be the organ of the Audubon Society, appeals to American readers; but there is a great deal of matter which should interest a wider circle, and many of the numerous illustrations are of great beauty. We may instance those to the chapter by Mr. F. M. Chapman on a breeding-place of the Brown Pelican in Florida; Mr. F. A. Lucas's Walrus Island, in Bering Sea, with its denizens, the Guillemots, Gulls, and Cormorants; the Editor and the veteran Mr. Burroughs finding and photographing the nests of Humming-birds; and Mr. H. W. Henshaw's first impressions of Hawaiian birds. These are some of the more important photogravures as regards size and the general interest of the accompanying letterpress; but the snapshots of smaller birds from life are very effective. The tendency of the work is distinctly educational, and its aim is to foster observation, especially by means of the camera, instead of mere collecting. Mr. Chapman's exposition of the working of the electric perch, by which the bird takes its own portrait as soon as it alights, deserves attention, though not unknown to a select few of our photographers on this side. The annual subscription to this sympathetic work is only a dollar.—H. S.

80. *Boutourline on the Game-Birds of the Russian Empire.*

[Synoptical Tables of the Game-Birds of the Russian Empire. By S. Boutourline, Member of the Society of Naturalists, &c. Edited by N. Anofrief. Petersburg, 1901. 4to. 126 pp.]

For some notes on the contents of this Russian memoir we are indebted to the kindness of Mr. Delmar Morgan, who informs us that the introductory remarks treat of the practical and scientific importance of Ornithology, the necessity for accurate classification, and the want of a

generally available system for the whole of Russia (European and Asiatic). The author's chief object is to encourage bird-hunters in all parts of Russia, and especially in the Asiatic provinces, to cultivate Ornithology. He disclaims completeness for the present work, and refers the reader for more detailed information to Prof. Menzbier's book 'The Birds of (European) Russia,' and to the 'Birds of Europe,' by Holodkofsky & Lifantief, in course of publication in parts. The system adopted in these tables is to co-ordinate the distinguishing characters of two types of each variety or species, leaving the collector or observer to classify his specimens according as these assimilate to one or the other type. Intermediate specimens are of great interest from various aspects, such as geographical distribution, palæontology, and the origin of species. To these must be added differences due to hybridization (very common among the *Gallinaceæ*), influence of climate, sex, age, and season. With these last the tables are not concerned. As a handbook for the Russian sportsman and collector in remote parts of the Empire, where books are difficult of access, M. Boutourline's tables will probably be found useful.

### 81. *Clarke on the Migration of Birds.*

[Bird Migration in Great Britain and Ireland. Fourth Interim Report of the Committee consisting of Prof. Newton (Chairman), Rev. E. P. Knubley (Secretary), Mr. John A. Harvie-Brown, Mr. R. M. Barrington, and Mr. A. H. Evans, appointed to work out the details of the Observations of Migration of Birds at Lighthouses and Lightships, 1880-87. Rep. Brit. Assoc. Glasgow, 1901.]

This Report contains an account of the migrations of the Skylark (*Alauda arvensis*) and of the Swallow (*Hirundo rustica*), worked out similarly to those of former species (see 'Ibis,' 1901, p. 325) by Mr. W. E. Clarke with his usual accuracy and comprehensive grasp of the subject. A serious deficiency of data is noted with regard to the South Coast of England, but the subsequent visit of Mr. Clarke to the Eddystone Lighthouse ('Ibis,' 1902, p. 246) has resulted in the acquisition of much further information.

82. *Finn on Indian Ducks.*

[How to know the Indian Ducks. By Frank Finn, B.A. (Oxon.), F.Z.S., M.B.O.U. Sm. 8vo. Calcutta: Thacker, Spink, & Co. 1901. Pp. i-iv & 1-101. Price 2 Rs. 8 Ans.]

This pamphlet chiefly consists of reprints of articles from the 'Asian' of 1898 and 1899, and treats in Mr. Finn's well-known popular style of Ducks in a very wide sense, as the author includes therein the Cygninæ, Anserinæ, Merginæ, and Anatinæ. The Indian species, though most of them breed in Northern and Central Asia, comprise about a quarter of the entire family Anatidæ; while most of the residents build in trees, and are remarkable for the scanty supply of down in their nests. The vernacular names are given as an assistance to identification, and appendices are added containing (1) a diagnostic table, (2) a table of colours of full-plumaged males, (3) remarks on the treatment of Ducks in confinement.

83. *Finsch on a new Bornean Bulbul.*

[Ueber eine neue Art Haarvogel aus Central-Borneo von Dr. O. Finsch. Notes Leyden Mus. xxiii. pp. 95, 96.]

*Poliolophus nieuwenhuisi*, from Central Borneo, is allied to *Brachypodius (Micropus) melanocephalus*, and is dedicated to its discoverer Dr. Nieuwenhuis, who has done good work for the Leyden Museum in Borneo.

84. *Godman's 'Biologia Centrali-Americana.'*

[Biologia Centrali-Americana; or, Contributions to the Knowledge of the Fauna and Flora of Mexico and Central America. Edited by F. DuCane Godman. (Zoology.) Parts CLXIX.-CLXXI. 1901-02. (R. H. Porter.)]

The three portions lately issued of the "Birds" of this important work commence with the Boatbills (Cancromidæ), which, in accordance with Mr. Ridgway's views, are regarded as forming a family apart from the Herons (Ardeidæ). The Central-American representative, *Cancroma zeledoni*, is recognised as distinct from the Southern *C. cochlearia*, but we suspect that intermediate forms may yet be found.

To the Cancromidæ succeed the Storks (Ciconiidæ) with two Central-American species, the Spoonbills (Plataleidæ) with one, the Ibises (Ibididæ) with four, and the Flamingos with one representative in this part of the world. The Anseres follow, and good progress is made with the Columbæ.

Excellent coloured figures are given of *Leptoptila plumbeiceps*, *L. cerviniventris*, *L. cassini*, *L. rufinucha*, and *Geotrygon lawrencii*.

#### 85. *Goeldi on Amazonian Birds.*

[Album de Aves Amazonicas organizado pelo Dr. Emilio A. Goeldi. 1<sup>mo</sup> fasc. 1901.]

Dr. E. A. Goeldi, Director of the Pará Museum of Natural History and Ethnography, who is always endeavouring to spread the knowledge of Natural History in his adopted country, has recently issued the first part of an "Album" of Amazonian Birds. It contains twelve coloured plates, on which are depicted some of the most characteristic species of the feathered inhabitants of the country, associated in groups of allied forms. The work is intended as a sort of illustrated supplement to the author's lately completed 'Aves do Brasil' (*cf.* 'Ibis,' 1901, p. 501).

#### 86. *Hagmann on the Zoological Garden at Pará.*

[Der Zoologische Garten des Museu Goeldi in Pará (Brasilien), mit besonderer Berücksichtigung der Tierbeschaffung, von Dr. phil Gottfried Hagmann. 8vo. Frankfurt a. M., 1901. 55 pp.]

Dr. Hagmann gives an interesting account of the Zoological Garden attached to the Goeldi Museum at Pará, which is said to be one of the great attractions of that flourishing city. The institution was founded in 1893 as the "Museu Paraense," but subsequently had its name changed to "Museu Goeldi," in honour of its energetic Founder and Director, Dr. E. A. Goeldi.

The various buildings in the Garden and their inhabitants are described, and a systematic list is given of the Vertebrate Animals exhibited during the past six years. Among the birds we observe the names of *Harpyia destructor*, *Nothocrax urumutum*, *Heliornis fulica*, and of three species of *Psophia*.

87. *Hellmayr on South-American Birds.*

[(1) Zur Revision der Gattung *Polioptila*. Von C. E. Hellmayr. Nov. Zool. viii. pp. 356-361.

(2) Ueber einige Arten des Genus *Thryophilus*. Von C. E. Hellmayr. Verh. k. k. zool.-bot. Ges. Wien, 1901, pp. 767-776.

(3) Revision einiger neotropischen *Turdidæ*. Von C. E. Hellmayr. J. f. O. 1902, pp. 44-69.]

An active young ornithologist is now at work at Vienna on South-American and Palæarctic Birds. One of us had the pleasure of making his personal acquaintance there last autumn, where he was engaged in work at the Imperial Museum of Natural History. With every wish to encourage Herr Hellmayr in his devotion to our science we may venture to say that he seems to us to be inclined in some cases to base his species and subspecies on rather slender characters.

In the first of the papers of which we have given the titles above he describes a new species (*P. berlepschi*) and a new subspecies of *Polioptila*, and adds critical remarks on other members of this well-marked Neotropical genus.

In the second he revises the Wrens of the genus *Thryophilus* allied to *T. leucotis*, and arranges the group under six species, besides subspecies.

In the third paper he devotes his attention to the Neotropical Thrushes, and discusses *Catharus* and the groups of *Turdus grayi*, *T. ignobilis*, *T. crotopezus*, *T. albiventer*, *T. phæopygus*, *T. fumigatus*, *T. flavipes*, and *T. fuscater*. Several new subspecies are indicated.

We wish that Herr Hellmayr would give up the ugly method of designating the typical form of a species by repetition of the specific name. *Turdus ignobilis ignobilis* is certainly not an elegant expression, *Turdus ignobilis typicus* is neater and quite as correct.

88. *Hellmayr on Palæarctic Birds.*

[(1) Eine neue Graumeisenform aus Italien. Von C. E. Hellmayr. Ornith. Jahrb. xii. pp. 110, 111.

(2) Untersuchungen über einige paläarktische Vögel. Von C. E. Hellmayr. Ornith. Jahrb. xiii. pp. 26-43.]

In his papers on the Palæarctic Ornis Mr. Hellmayr also

appears to us to be too much given to the fashionable practice of making new "subspecies." The various forms of *Parus* are, no doubt, not easy to deal with, but the differences between the local forms are by no means constant, and it is very difficult, if not impossible in many cases, to assign specimens to a particular form without a knowledge of their localities.

Mr. Hellmayr reviews the local forms of *P. montanus*, *P. communis*, and *P. ater*, and separates some new subspecies.

The author also shows that *Turdus orientalis* Mad. is intermediate between *T. torquatus typicus* and *T. t. alpestris*.

### 89. *Herrick's 'Home Life of Wild Birds.'*

[The Home Life of Wild Birds : a New Method of the Study and Photography of Birds. By Francis Hobart Herrick. With 141 Original Illustrations from Nature by the Author. 4to. London, 1901. Pp. xx, 149. Putnam's. Price 10s. 6d.]

Mr. Herrick's studies have been chiefly carried out in Central New Hampshire and relate for the most part to the more common American species. They are, however, none the less welcome on that account, and portray with great accuracy the birds and their habits at the nest. Being desirous of shewing them as they really are and their behaviour in the open air rather than under constrained conditions or in cages, the author contrived a new method of study, which he practised for two summers. Instead of going to the birds, he virtually made the birds come to him, and ensured their tameness before taking their portraits. In the case of some twenty-six species the nest was first watched to determine the period and details of incubation; the young, when hatched, were next carefully observed, and, when they were considered old enough, the nest and its surroundings were often bodily removed and set up at some convenient spot, where a movable tent was erected to screen the observer and his camera. Special chapters on "Fear in Birds" and "Taming without a Cage" shew how soon the birds became familiarized with their new surroundings; while the result of no less than five or six hours' daily watching was the acquisition of a fine series of

Plates of the parents and young under all manner of circumstances, though the effect of the pictures is somewhat spoilt by the portions not in focus. Special devices were needed when the ground was marshy or otherwise unfit for the work.

#### 90. *Martorelli on Athene chiaradiæ.*

[Nota ornitologica. Ulteriori osservazioni sull' *Athene chiaradiæ*, Giglioli, del Prof. Giacinto Martorelli. Atti Soc. Ital. Sci. Nat. xl.]

This paper contains particulars concerning the remarkable form of Owl recently discovered in Udine, Italy, and described by Prof. Giglioli as *Athene chiaradiæ*. It would seem to be a sport of *A. noctua* rather than a veritable species; but Prof. Giglioli has promised us an article upon this interesting bird for 'The Ibis,' which will, no doubt, give us full information.

#### 91. *Naumann's 'Birds of Middle Europe.'*

[Naumann, Naturgeschichte der Vögel Mitteleuropas. Herausgegeben Dr. Carl R. Hennicke. Bande ii.-vii., x. Folio. Gera-Untermhaus, 1897-1902. (Price 1 M. each Lieferung.)]

Every ornithologist who has devoted himself to European birds must be well acquainted with Naumann's 'Naturgeschichte der Vögel Deutschlands,' which, though published as far back as 1822-53, still remains a standard work of the best description. Until recently no second edition had been published, but a revised edition, bringing the subject up to date, is now being issued under the title 'Naumann, Naturgeschichte der Vögel Mitteleuropas.'

Several volumes of this have, we understand, already appeared; but of these we have only received one for review, namely the third, which embraces the Wagtails, Larks, and Finches. The number of authors and artists employed on the work reaches, according to the titlepage, the somewhat alarming total of 37, all working under the editorship of Dr. Carl R. Hennicke, of Gera, so that it may be taken for granted that the various articles will scarcely be of equal value. In the present volume, however, the work is executed

with commendable care and accuracy, the general arrangement of Naumann having been pretty closely followed. The various foreign names, a careful synonymy, and full descriptions of the birds with their habitats, habits, food, and nidification, their enemies, the mode of their capture, their use—and the contrary if they are destructive—are all fully given. Subspecies are referred to, but fortunately not fully treated of, for it appears that of the Crested Lark alone eighteen subspecies have already been described and named, though in the present work only two, *G. cristata* and *G. thecklæ*, are included as valid. The plates are, on the whole, good; but, as five artists have been employed, they are rather varied in execution, those of Mr. Keulemans being by far the best, while those of Pastor Kleinschmidt, though somewhat stiff, are accurate and fairly artistic. The third volume consists of 391 pages of letterpress, 43 chromolithographic plates of birds and 5 of eggs, and as the price is only sixteen shillings it is indeed a marvel of cheapness and a work that we can safely recommend to our readers. We only regret that it has not been issued in the handy octavo form of the original work, for large folio volumes such as these are heavy and far less convenient for reference-purposes.

*92. Oustalet and Claybrooke on the third Ornithological Congress at Paris.*

[III<sup>e</sup> Congrès Ornithologique International, Paris.—26–30 Juin, 1900. Compte Rendu des Séances publié par E. Oustalet et J. de Claybrooke. 8vo. Paris: Masson et C<sup>ie</sup>, 1901.]

This volume, which is full of interest to all ornithologists, contains a complete report of the business transacted at the third meeting of the International Ornithological Congress held at Paris in June 1900, and a list of the members present. This is followed by a long series of papers on different branches of our science, among the authors of which we notice the names of Reiser (Birds of Balkan), Johansen (Birds of Central Siberia), Bowdler Sharpe (Birds of Mongolia and Birds of North China), Berlepsch and Stolzmann (New Species from Central Peru), Simon (new Trochilidæ),

and many other noted ornithologists. Dr. Bureau writes on the plumages of Sabine's Gull, and Freiherr v. Berlepsch on the "*Chasse aux grives*" of Central Europe, in the course of which he states that over one million Thrushes are slaughtered every year. More than half of these are Song-Thrushes (*Turdus musicus*).

Coloured figures are given of *Ptilopus huttoni* Finsch (from Rapa, South Pacific) and of a supposed hybrid between *Turdus obscurus* and *T. iliacus* from specimens in the Milan Museum, also a photograph of a tame Humming-bird (*Chlorostilbon splendidus*) which died at Milan after living six months in captivity.

The next Congress, it is stated, will be held in London, with Dr. Bowdler Sharpe as President.

### 93. *Ridgway on the Birds of North and Middle America.*

[The Birds of North and Middle America. By Robert Ridgway. Part I. Bull. U.S. Nat. Mus. no. 50, 1901.]

We welcome with pleasure the first volume of the long-promised work of Mr. Ridgway on the birds of North and Middle America, and are sure that our friend and fellow-labourer will not take amiss the remarks we here make upon it. In the first place, we are glad that the author has been driven, by stress of circumstances, to commence with the most highly developed birds—the Passeres. It was a great mistake, in our opinion, when certain modern ornithologists determined to begin "from the bottom upwards." One way of treatment, if properly carried out, is, of course, just as correct as the other; but as, up to a recent period, it had always been the practice to commence with the highest forms, it is very confusing to find the lowest types at the top and the Passeres at the bottom.

Mr. Ridgway, we are pleased to say, begins with the nine-primaried Oscinine Passeres, and his first volume is entirely devoted to the Fringillidæ, under which head he includes—not without some reason, we admit—the group that previous authors have usually classed as the Fringilline or Thick-billed Tanagers. Of the huge family Fringillidæ,

not less than 389 species and subspecies are recognised as coming within the limits of "North and Middle America," though, we must say, we think that Mr. Ridgway need not have overburdened his list by including the Galapagos within the area treated of, the Galapagan Avifauna being, in our opinion, quite as nearly related to South as to North and Middle America.

Again, though it cannot be denied that subspecies exist in Nature, and that in some respects the use of them is of advantage, we cannot approve of the enormous increase of trinomials that has lately taken place among the new school of systematists. Seven species of *Carpodacus mexicanus*, for example, are allowed by Mr. Ridgway, and twelve of *Cardinalis cardinalis*. We fully admit the great experience that Mr. Ridgway has gained from the enormous series of specimens before him, but we cannot believe that it would be possible to recognise many of these supposed subspecies without a knowledge of the locality of the specimens. We quite agree with our author when he confesses that trinomials are a "necessary evil," and that binomials are preferable. We shrink from contemplating what the number of "subspecies" will come to be when the birds of other countries shall have been worked up to the same pitch as those of North and Middle America, and we lament the task that will fall on the ornithologists of the future in striving to recollect their names.

In matters of nomenclature Mr. Ridgway adheres closely to the Code of the A.O.U., of which he is such a distinguished member. One of the most objectionable of these rules is that the original misspelling of a name cannot be corrected. Thus Swainson having, from ignorance or from error, called a genus of Pigeons *Leptotila* instead of *Leptoptila*, the first spelling must, according to this practice, be always retained—*obviously* wrong as it is. As we have said before, the rules of grammar and common sense are, to our mind, of far greater importance than the artificial rules of priority, as they are carried out by the new school. So far from conducing to uniformity of nomenclature, such proceedings

only result in establishing greater diversity, for no highly educated man will be inclined to submit to them.

There appears to be one new species described in the present volume, namely, *Geospiza harterti* (p. 507), while the following new subspecies are characterized:—*Carpodacus mexicanus sonoriensis*, *Pyrrhulagra noctis coryi*, *Cyanocompsa parellina sumichrasti*, and *Saltator magnoides medianus*.

94. *Salvadori on new Birds from the St. Thomas's and Prince's Islands.*

[Due nuove specie di Uccelli dell' Isola di S. Thomé e dell' Isola del Principe raccolte dal Sig. Leonardo Fea. Boll. d. Mus. Zool. e Anat. comp. R. Univ. Torino, xvi. no. 414.]

*Zosterops feæ* (hitherto united to *Z. ficedulina*), from St. Thomas, and *Turdus xanthorhynchus*, from Prince's Island in the Gulf of Guinea, are described in this paper. Examples of both were sent to the Museo Civico of Genoa by the well-known collector Fea.

95. *Schalow on the African Ostriches.*

[Ueber die Geographische Verbreitung der Afrikanischen Struthioniden und über ein Hilfsmittel zu deren Erforschung, von Herman Schalow. Ornith., xi. pp. 427-432.]

In this paper the distribution-areas of *Struthio camelus*, *S. australis*, *S. molybdophanes*, and the so-called *S. massaicus* are treated of, and the question whether the first and last of these occur in the districts assigned to the others is considered; skins, eggs, and the literature of the subject are also discussed.

96. *Shufeldt on the Flamingos.*

[Osteology of the Flamingos (Odontoglossæ). Family Phœnicopteridæ, Sp. *P. ruber*. By R. W. Shufeldt, C.M.Z.S. Ann. Carnegie Mus. i. pp. 295-324, pls. ix.-xiv.]

Dr. Shufeldt had before him in compiling this paper a complete disarticulated skeleton of *Phœnicopterus ruber* and a mounted skeleton, both from the U.S. National Museum. These he compares bone by bone with the American Mergansers and other Ducks, Geese, and Swans. After

discussing the views of various authorities he concludes by agreeing with the majority in considering the Flamingos to form an independent group or Suborder, corresponding to Huxley's Amphimorphæ, standing between the Anseres and the Herodiones. Among the Anseres, they come nearest to certain Geese; while they have borrowed characters from a number of Grallatorial forms, such as *Platalea*, the *Ibididæ*, and *Tantalus*, though they do not approximate closely to such genera as *Ardea*. The six plates represent various bones and the skeleton of *Phænicopterus ruber*.

97. *Silloway on the Birds of Flathead Lake.*

[Summer Birds of Flathead Lake. By P. M. Silloway. Bull. Univ. Montana, no. 1, pp. 1-83, pls. i.-xvi.]

Mr. Silloway's observations were chiefly made from June 14th to August 30th, 1900, but were supplemented by others made in 1901. They comprise a list, admittedly not yet complete, of the birds of the Flathead Lake district in Montana, and a series of very interesting notes on its Oology. A hundred and twenty-eight species are reported, of which all but eight probably breed in the district. Fourteen plates of nests and eggs are added, with two views of the surroundings of the Biological Station. The neighbouring country is admirably suited to bird-life, with its mountains, woods, bushy and marshy areas, and open prairies.

98. *Southwell on Browne's 'Natural History of Norfolk.'*

[Notes and Letters on the Natural History of Norfolk, more especially on the Birds and Fishes. From the MSS. of Sir Thomas Browne, M.D. (1605-1682) in the Sloane Collection in the Library of the British Museum and in the Bodleian Library, Oxford. With Notes by Thomas Southwell, F.Z.S., &c. London: 1902 (Jarrold & Sons). 8vo. Price 6s. net.]

In choosing a title for this nice little book, Mr. Southwell hardly does justice to its contents, for though, as was natural, Sir Thomas Browne's Notes and Letters chiefly concern the county of his adoption and abode, many of them have a very general bearing, and will be read with as much interest by any

dweller in "the Shires," or even outside of this country, as by a truly Norfolk man. Most British ornithologists must have heard of, or even seen reference made to, the observations in Natural History by the celebrated author of the 'Religio Medici,' the 'Hydrotaphia,' and the 'Pseudodoxia Epidemica' or Vulgar Errors; but few have had the patience to dig them out from the four-volume edition of his collected works by Wilkin, or the smaller reprint in three volumes issued some ten years later, in which these observations lie buried. Moreover, when found they obviously needed more annotating than they had received, though it must be allowed that comparatively few errors of commission had been made by their then Editor and his friends.

The original cast of mind so characteristic of all Browne's greater works is just as clearly shewn in these "diversions of his pen"—the phrase applied by one of his early editors to his 'Miscellany Tracts,'—and is as true of the one as of the other. Indefatigably as he pursued his profession, he seems never to have let slip an opportunity for observation, and hence we have in this little volume a very large proportion of facts recorded for the first time. True it is that the most important of them have been copied, or at least mentioned, by later writers; but that does not detract from the interest with which they are here to be read in Browne's own words, and, thanks to Mr. Southwell's care, in Browne's own spelling.

There can be no doubt that, though it was not for Merrett's information that Browne first began to set down these notes, he continued them with the object of their serving that author in a revised edition of his 'Pinax Rerum Naturalium'—the book which contains the earliest list of British Birds. For some reason, which is not clear, that revised edition never appeared, and great is our loss in consequence, for it must be remarked that what we have here is not the fair copy of the Notes sent to Merrett, but only the draughts or rough copy. The same may be said to some extent of the Letters, and it is possibly from that cause that the handwriting is so terribly hard to read, and

in the rough copy of one letter, of which a photographic representation is given, is almost illegible.

As might be expected of so learned a man, Browne had a fair acquaintance with the literature of his subject. Among ornithological authors, Turner, Gesner, Belon, and Aldrovandus are all cited, as well as Clusius; but the book he knew best was the compilation of the Scoto-Pole Jonston, which began to appear in 1650, and in the course of a few years saw several editions. Mr. Southwell has been most diligent in verifying these references, and his admirably judicious notes, voluminous as in places they may seem, cannot be said to contain a word too much, for all are to the point. We venture to predict that this little book, of which we understand that the number of copies printed is but small, will be eagerly sought for, and that before long.

99. *Tschusi zu Schmidhoffen on the Red-spotted Blue-throat in Bohemia.*

[Ueber das Vorkommen des rotsternigen Blaukehlchens im Elbethale. Von Victor, Ritter v. Tschusi zu Schmidhoffen. Ornith. Monatsb. 1902, pp. 22-24.]

The author here reports the occurrence of a large number of Red-spotted Blue-throats in the central mountains of Bohemia. Those noticed were chiefly males, but the bird is known to have bred in this district.

100. *Witherby's Bird-hunting on the White Nile.*

['Bird-hunting on the White Nile.' A Naturalist's Experiences in the Soudan. By Harry W. Witherby. 8vo. London, 1902. 'Knowledge' Office. 117 pp. Price 2s. 6d.]

This little book is a reprint (with additions and corrections) of Mr. Witherby's popular account of his experiences on the White Nile in the spring of 1900. It is nicely illustrated from photographs, and is well worthy of perusal, particularly by those who contemplate similar expeditions. A list of the birds met with is given in an appendix. We need hardly remind our readers that Mr. Witherby's scientific account of the collection made on the White Nile was published in this Journal in 1901.

## XXXI.—Obituary.

Dr. EMIL HOLUB, Herr CARL EULER, Lt.-Col. the Rt. Hon. E. H. COOPER, and Lord MALCOLM.

Dr. EMIL HOLUB, the well-known African traveller and collector, died at Vienna on the 21st of February last, in the 55th year of his age. Dr. Holub was a native of Bohemia and of Czech descent. He was educated as an apothecary, but emigrated early in life to South Africa, and practised as a doctor at Kimberley and elsewhere. His original inducement to penetrate into the far interior of the country was his ardent taste for Natural History, especially Ornithology, to the pursuit of which his first seven years of travel were mainly devoted. His journeys were described in his 'Sieben Jahre in Süd-Afrika' (Wien, 1881), a work which was translated into English and published in London. In conjunction with the late Freiherr v. Pelzeln, the collection of birds made on this occasion was described by him in a volume entitled 'Beiträge zur Ornithologie Südafrikas' (Vienna, 1882)\*. Dr. Holub subsequently returned to South Africa, and made a more extended expedition into the Marotse and Mashukulumbe countries north of the Zambesi, now forming part of Northern Rhodesia. During his four years' wanderings on this occasion (1883-87) a large collection of native arms and implements, as well as of natural objects, was made, and was exhibited at Vienna on his return to Europe. This journey was described in his work 'Von der Capstadt ins Land der Maschukulumbe' (2 vols., Vienna, 1890).

CARL EULER, the well-known Brazilian ornithologist, died at Rio de Janeiro on the 27th of November, 1901. He was born at Basel, in Switzerland, in 1834, and after finishing his studies at the Gymnasium there, emigrated to Brazil in 1853, and settled at the German colony of Cantagallo, in the province of Rio. Here he became Swiss Vice-Consul and owned a large farm called the Fazenda do Bom Vallé,

\* For notice of this work, see 'Ibis,' 1882, p. 462.

while he spent all his leisure time on the study of the birds of the surrounding district. Entering into relations with Dr. Cabanis, of Berlin, Euler contributed to the 'Journal für Ornithologie' a series of excellent field-notes on the birds of Brazil and their nesting-habits and eggs, which were commenced in 1867 (see *J. f. O.* 1867, p. 177). In 1877, not being able to continue his work at Cantagallo, Euler moved to Rio de Janeiro, and subsequently prepared the new edition of his ornithological papers, which was published by Dr. v. Ihering (to whom we are mainly indebted for these notes on Euler's life) in the fourth volume of the 'Revista do Museu Paulista' (see 'Ibis,' 1901, p. 132).

Of Euler's collections, some went to the Museum at Berlin and others to the National Museum at Rio. Euler was an excellent field-naturalist and observer, but had little disposition for strictly scientific ornithology.

Lt.-Col. the Rt. Hon. EDWARD HENRY COOPER, P.C., of Markree Castle, Colloony, Sligo, and 42 Portman Square, London, who died on February 26th last, became a Member of the B.O.U. in 1880. He began experiments with a view to introducing the Black Grouse on his Irish estates more than thirty years ago, and at first obtained specimens from Scotland. More recently he imported examples of the same species from Norway. But although in both cases the birds survived for a few years, they never bred, and eventually died out, as Capt. Barrett-Hamilton has recorded (see 'Irish Nat.' viii. pp. 41, 43). Col. Cooper was equally unsuccessful with similar attempts to introduce into Ireland Capercaillies, Reeves's Pheasants, Hawfinches, and other birds.

JOHN WINGFIELD, first Baron MALCOLM OF POLTALLOCH, who died on the 6th of March last, was born in 1833, and educated at Eton and Christ Church, Oxford. He was Lieut.-Col. commanding the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders Volunteer Battalion, and M.P. for Argyllshire from 1886-1892. Lord Malcolm was elected to the B.O.U. in

1875, having displayed considerable interest in Ornithology, and being the possessor of a noted collection of birds, which he had inherited from his father. The specimens of this collection were set up by Leadbeater, and from him, in all probability, was purchased an egg of the Great Auk at a price which in these days would seem ridiculous (from £1 to £3, it is said, but accounts vary). Lord Malcolm, though very fond of birds, was not given to writing upon them, and his name does not appear among the contributors to our columns.

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XXXII.—*Letters, Extracts, Notices, &c.*

WE have received the following letters addressed to "The Editors" :—

SIRS,—I think that it will not be without interest to the readers of 'The Ibis' to know that H.M. Vittorio Emanuele, our present King, has disposed of the ornithological collection that his grandfather, Vittorio Emanuele II., put together at Mandria, not far from Turin. The collection had been removed to the Castle of Moncalieri, and quite recently it was divided between the Museum of Turin and that of Rome. The birds allotted to the latter museum include the well-known specimen of *Alca impennis*, which Victor Emanuel, the grandfather, had bought from the collection of Pastor Brehm. The series presented to the Museum of Turin contains, among other rarities, a specimen of *Cerionis caboti*, which has been the subject of a small paper of mine published in the 'Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London' for 1871 (pp. 495-496); but the rarest bird is a *Garrulus lidthi*, of which only three specimens are known, and which I have mentioned in another paper of mine, "Nota intorno al *Garrulus lidthii*" (Atti R. Ac. Sc. Tor. vii. 1872, pp. 473-476). Of this species two living specimens were brought from Japan and given to King Victor Emanuel. It would be interesting to know what has become of the second specimen, which, on its sale at

Florence, was bought by the late M. Vekemans, Director of the Zoological Garden of Antwerp. Even at the present day we are ignorant of the exact locality inhabited by this rare Jay.

Turin Zoological Museum.  
22nd March, 1902.

Yours &c.,  
T. SALVADORI.

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SIRS,—Having long paid particular attention to Baer's Pochard, I was much interested in Mr. J. G. Millais's note in 'The Ibis' for last January (p. 192) on the courtship of the species. As a matter of fact, I briefly drew attention to the gesture which he describes some years ago (Journ. As. Soc. Beng. 1897, p. 527), and later recorded that it was common to the female of the species (Proc. As. Soc. Beng., April 1878).

Since then I have seen the male White-eyed Pochard (*Nyroca ferruginea*) jerk back its neck in a precisely similar manner to its near ally; but as the neck in this species is shorter and thicker than in *Nyroca baeri*, the general effect is far less striking. I have not seen the female White-eyed Pochard indulge in this backward jerk of the neck, but she will probably prove to possess the habit, since the so-called pairing-gestures of male birds are very often shared by the females, being indeed in many cases apparently the expression of several emotions and proper to the whole species. Everybody must have noticed the nodding of the head in the domesticated Mallard, and the erection of the crest and expansion and swinging of the tail in the Muscovy Duck, signs of emotion common to both sexes.

Returning to Baer's Pochard, it may interest your readers to know that this species has not appeared in our Bazaar this winter.

Indian Museum, Calcutta.  
10th April, 1902.

Yours &c.,  
F. FINN.

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SIRS,—Judging from the editorial note in 'The Ibis,' April 1902, p. 353, it has come upon the Editors as a shock